

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 7, 2004. Claims 20, 26, 36, 39-41, 44 and 49-51 are presented for examination, of which Claims 20, 26 and 49 are in independent form. Claims 46-48 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and Claims 49-51 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 20, 26, 36, 41 and 44 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 20, 26, 36, 39, 41, 44 and 46-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patents 5,812,772 (Hasegawa), 6,825,752 (Fujimori) and 6,462,832 B1 (Malik), in combination.

Independent Claim 20 is directed to a communication system that comprises a source node, one or more destination nodes, and a controller. The controller, according to Claim 20, is adapted to set a logical connection between the source node and the destination node(s) and to notify the source node and the destination node(s) of first information representing the logical connection and second information that is unique to the controller. Also, the source node is adapted to divide data to be transmitted to the destination node(s) into a plurality of segment data, and to transfer each of the segment data with the first and second information for identifying the logical connection sent by the controller to the one or more destination nodes, and each of the one or more destination nodes includes a receiving buffer, in which it stores each of the segment data.

Among other important features of the system recited in Independent Claim 20, therefore, are that a controller included therein is adapted to set a logical connection between a source node and one or more destination nodes, and to notify the source node and the one or more destination nodes of first information representing the logical connection and second information that is unique to the controller (e.g., page 48, line 24 to page 49, line 3), and that the source node is adapted to transfer each of the segment data with the first and second information sent by the controller to the one or more destination nodes.

The above-described features of the system of Claim 20 are not taught by any of *Hasegawa*, *Fujimori* or *Malik*.

To begin with, Applicants submit that nothing in *Hasegawa* even hints at a controller having the features recited for it in Claim 20.

Fujimori relates to a network connection system (Fig. 1, and col. 6, lines 31-41) including a connection interface (Fig. 2, and col. 7, lines 13-16). The interface includes a path information manager PIM8 which is arranged to assign a node ID (col. 9, lines 25-45) and report setting of path to an application included in a node (col. 20, lines 45-65). In this connection, the PIM8 updates a path information table when the path is set (Fig. 4, col. 6, lines 44-46, and col. 20, lines 58-59). Considering lines 58-64 of col. 20, the PIM8 appears to notify information included in the update path information table to the application. However, the path information table shown in Fig. 4 fails to teach the first information representing the set logical connection and second information which is unique to the controller, both of which are recited in independent Claim 20. Even if combined with *Hasegawa*, therefore (and even assuming the

proposed combination would be a permissible one), *Fujimoto* cannot teach or suggest the controller recited in Claim 20.

Malik is relied on in the Office Action as showing division of transmission data into segment data. Even if that patent is taken to show all that it is cited for, therefore, it does not supply what is missing from *Hasegawa* and *Fujimori* as prior art against Claim 20.

Independent Claim 26 is a method claim corresponding to Claim 20, and is deemed allowable by virtue of at least the arguments presented above in connection with Claim 20.

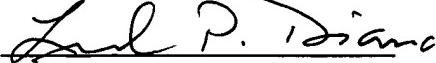
New independent Claim 49 has been formulated to cover only the controller recited in independent Claim 20, and is believed to be allowable by virtue of the features of the controller discussed above in connection with Claim 20.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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